



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chair
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano and Chairman DeFazio,

On behalf of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and our more than 30,000 members, we are writing to thank you for introducing and holding a Subcommittee markup on the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021. Your support for our nation's clean water practitioners has been instrumental in ensuring the protection of public health and our environment through sound water infrastructure.

As our nation's wastewater systems age, communities face greater costs in meeting federal environmental requirements. Yet the federal government is contributing fewer dollars to communities struggling to meet these federal mandates. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 96% of funding that goes into wastewater infrastructure is from state and local entities, and in the 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that our nation's wastewater infrastructure will need \$271 billion in investment over the next 20 years. Given that this study is the better part of a decade old, it is very likely that the estimate has increased.

APWA and its members appreciate your leadership on this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This program is a shining example of partnership between the federal government and the states, and the over \$145 billion in assistance that has been leveraged since the program's 1987 inception speaks to its effectiveness. By increasing the authorized funding level for the program to \$40 billion over the next five years, communities will have a greater ability to meet their needs to protect public health and the environment.

APWA is also appreciative of your effort to reauthorize the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants program. This program provides vital funding to communities for critical stormwater infrastructure projects, including combined sewer overflows (CSO) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). By increasing the authorization level to \$400 million for the next five fiscal years, you are making a down payment to communities across the country to deal with this significant source of water pollution.

PRESIDENT
Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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In addition to the health and environmental benefits, investment in our nation's water infrastructure is a proven job creator. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that for every job added in the water workforce, 3.68 jobs are added to the national economy. Additionally, for every dollar spent on water infrastructure, about \$2.62 is generated in the private economy. Clearly, federal funding of water infrastructure is a wise investment.

Your support for the CWSRF program is vital, but it is only one aspect of the multitude of federal tools that can support communities in meeting their water infrastructure needs. Along with robust funding for CWSRF, APWA appreciates that the bill includes the following:

- Provides \$1 billion in Clean Water Act grants to implement treatment methods for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants;
- Authorizing \$1 billion in grants for alternative water source projects such as wastewater or stormwater reuse; and
- Provides \$1 billion for Clean Water pilot programs for watershed-based efforts to deal with major wet weather, stormwater, and climate resiliency issues.

Each day public works professionals are diligently working to protect and maintain the critical infrastructure that is so essential to protecting our health and quality of life. Because of our shared commitment, APWA looks forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on this legislation to help public works professionals meet our water infrastructure challenges.

Sincerely,

Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF
President

Scott Grayson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT
Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE